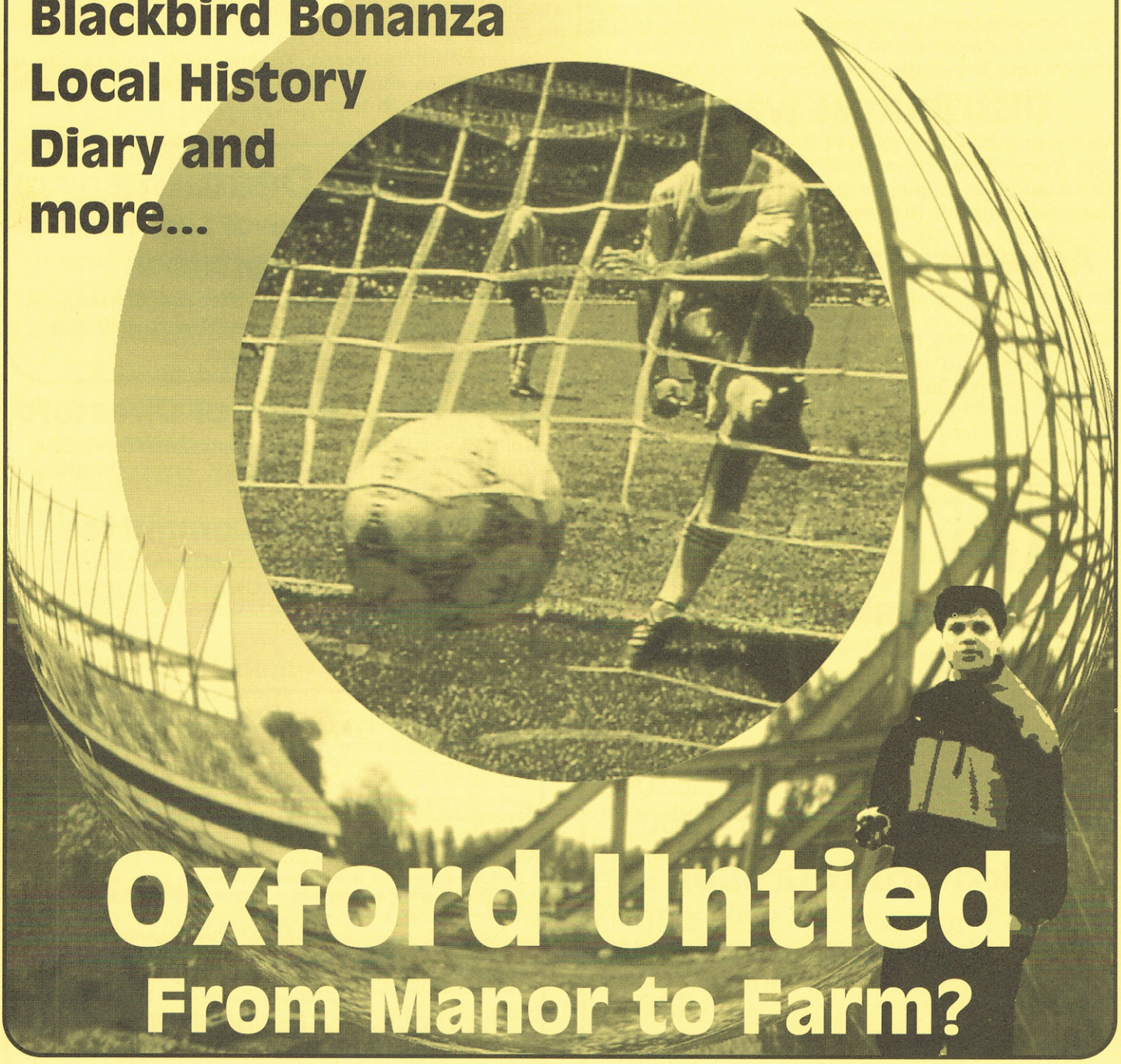
Issue 15 Summer 1999

Leys News

Young Umfolosi & Wesley Green
Leys Training - 4-page pullout
Neighbours from Heaven
Blackbird Bonanza
Local History
Diary and more...



Oxford Untied
From Manor to Farm?

The FREE Community Newsletter for Blackbird Leys

Get involved

Help us to keep you more informed by using LEYS NEWS as a means of communicating news, information and more to all residents of Blackbird Leys.

Leys News is produced 4 times a year at the moment although there are plans to increase this to 6 times a year. Leys News is delivered FREE to all homes in Blackbird Leys. If you don't receive it please tell us and we'll get you a copy.

We welcome your contributions whether they are letters, photographs, cartoons or even ideas about what you think we should be covering.

Leys News Limited is a community business run by a Board of Directors and an Editorial Committee, who oversee the putting together of Leys News.

Distributors wanted

We are building up a team of distributors to deliver Leys News. We are interested in hearing from people who would like to join us. Call us and we'll tell you more about what's involved.

Advertising in Leys News

We have two rates of charges for advertising to cover profit making and non profit making groups or businesses. See the box for our current charges. If you'd like us to design your ad with you we are happy to oblige, but we would charge extra for this service. We do however reserve the right not to accept an advertisement.

Write to us:

Al Cane, Leys News, The Dovecote, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 5BU. Or email: leysnews@hotmail.com Or phone: 0410 588349

Contributions

...are welcome in letter form, if it's handwriting please make sure it's legible, floppy disks are fine, but please make sure they are text only or you could e-mail it to the address above.

We reserve the right to edit contributions and letters received. We cannot guarantee to publish all letters submitted. Leys News Ltd cannot accept responsibility for services supplied by our advertisers.

Leaflet Distribution

Leys News can also arrange low cost delivery of leaflets to any part of Blackbird Leys. Our charges are £45 for every 1000 leaflets delivered or £22.50 for every 500 delivered. To post 1000 leaflets with a second class stamp would cost approx £200. Please give us as much notice as possible.

Copy Deadline

for the next issue of Leys News is Friday 3 September.

It will be delivered at the beginning of the week starting on Monday 27th September.

Leys News Board of Directors

Molly Florey (Chair), Penny Wood (Secretary), Enid Foster (Treasurer), Wendy Spray, Jasper Smith, and Kathryn Grant.

The Editorial Committee

Marion Delaney, Cynthia Fine, Molly Florey, Wendy Spray, Enid Foster, Paul Vernon (design) and Al Cane (Development Worker). We would welcome new members.

Advertising

Profit-making Groups

Full Page	£160
1/2 Page	£80
1/4 Page	£40
1/8 Page	£20
or Inserts:	£80 per 1000.

Non-profit Groups

Full Page	£80
1/2 Page	£40
1/4 Page	£20
1/8 Page	£10
or Inserts:	£45 per 1000.

If you would like to receive a translation of the attached, please contact your Housing Officer.

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਨਾਲ ਭੇਜੇ ਗਏ ਕਿਤਾਬਚੇ ਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਹਾਊਸਿੰਗ ਆਫਿਸਰ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

यदि आप को साथ में भेजी गई पुस्तिका का हिंदी अनुवाद चाहिए तो कृपया अपने हाऊसिंग आफ़िसर से संपर्क कीजिये।

આ સાથેના પત્રકની નકલ જો તમારે તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો તમારા હાઉઝિંગ ઓફિસરનો સંપર્ક કરવો.

اگر آپ منسلکہ کاغذات کا ترجمہ اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں تو براہِ مہربانی اپنے ہاؤسنگ آفیسر سے رابطہ قائم کیجیے۔

If you can help with translation, please call Al Cane on 0410 588 349.

Contents

2 Contributions, and Advertising
3 Contents and Editorial
4 NEWS SNIPS
6 ELDER PAGES, Pegasus Court, Potters Court and From there...
8 L.E.T.S, Pilgrimage Against Poverty and the Arts Group
10 YOUTH PAGES
12 Blackbird Bonanza and the Young Photographers
LEYS TRAINING A 4 page pullout
13 Young Umfolosi and Wesley Green
14 Oxford United
15 Padlars
17 Mentors
19 Neighbours from Heaven
20 Claimants Union and Tenants' Feedback
21 Training Update
23 Useful Numbers and Councillors surgeries
24 WEEKLY EVENTS

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EditoriAL

First of all a big thankyou to Cllr Carole Roberts, who stepped down as Lord Mayor in May, we think she did a great job in her year in office and a equally big welcome and congratulations to Cllr Val Smith, our newly installed Lord Mayor, we wish her well in the year ahead. Blackbird Leys seems to have a monopoly on those mayoral chains.

Football, political footballs and half built stadiums. We've tried to get a sense of what people think about this complex and very fluid situation. It seems to change every day with a lot of speculation and rumours flying around. But the overwhelming impression we get is that people do want football to happen at Minchery Farm - but at what price? One that's going to run and run. Let's hope that Oxford United turns itself around and becomes a powerful force again...

It's good to see a lot of news in this issue about summer activities for young people and also new things happening for older citizens, like the Lunch Club and Line Dancing on a Thursday at the Clockhouse. We at Leys News are also very pleased to announce our **social history project - From there to here -** which will happen over the next two years. Look out for further details on page 7 of this issue.

Leys News is about to establish a new base of operations upstairs at the Dovecote. We will be shortly sorting out regular times to be there and available for contacting.

Thanks to all the people responsible for putting this issue together, especially to **Marsha**, our student placement. Don't forget to tell us what you think of Leys News and enjoy the summer.

Al Cane - Leys News development worker (not the editor, just the person who wrote the editorial this time round)

Sound-bites from around Blackbird Leys

Patricia - *"It's a very friendly place but there are too many cars. I get Leys News and find the information in it useful. There are no baby swings and we need more slides"*

Carol - *"I love living and working here, but I don't like the reputation Blackbird Leys has."*

Emma - *"It's not as bad as I thought it would be. A good bus service."*

Lotoyah - *"Got lots of friends here. I get Leys News. We need a local shop."*

Teresa - *"I don't think there's anything I don't like about BBL. I like the fact that people are trying to do things in this community."*

Kim - *"We need a shop around here. It's nice and quiet; there aren't enough buses in the evenings."*

Lunch Wise

Pedlars are now putting on a healthy 2 course meal on a Thursday from 12noon - 2pm at the Clockhouse for over 55's. The cost is £4 and there's entertainment every week too.

Residents Elect

Steve Good was elected chair of the Leys Residents Association at a special meeting on June 8th. Rafia Choudary and Enid Foster were also elected as new Committee members.

Leys Residents are welcome to drop into the LRA office at the Clockhouse on a Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 3. Membership of the LRA is open to all residents on the new part of Blackbird Leys. Call: 770951.

Parish Council News

At the AGM of the Parish Council in May Molly Florey was re-elected as Chair, Eileen Clements as Vice Chair and Harry Dugdale as Treasurer. 7 Parish councillors were also nominated for the planning sub-committee.

The Parish Council also has a small amount of money available to pay for a project for the millennium year. The Council is looking for ideas for this in three age groups namely up to 10 years, 11 - 18 years, and 18 and upwards

All suggestions to be sent in by 20th August so that they can be considered and decided upon at the Parish Council September meeting. Send to Carol Shayler at 1 Cuddesdon Way.

The Farmstead

OPENING TIMES FOR HOUSING ASSOCIATION TENANTS

The Farmhouse is open from 9am to1pm and from 2pm to 5pm Monday to Friday. Ealing Family Housing Association staff will not be available after 12 noon on the first Wednesday of each month. Oxford Citizens Housing Association staff will not be available until 2pm on the first Wednesday of the month.

If you would like to see your Housing Officer PLEASE make an appointment wherever possible by phoning:

OCHA: 714509, EFHA: 712244,

CHERWELL: 722711 or 717210 on Wednesdays 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Gardening equipment for housing association residents of Greater Leys: the strimmer is out of action and we are waiting for a replacement. We do have a mower - daily hire charge £1 with a returnable deposit of £25 - maximum hire period is 3 days.

Orchestra St John

...are now working with Spotlight Theatre Company and local schools, Orchard Meadow and Peers Upper as part of their residency in Oxford and in particular Blackbird Leys. They are also involved in the Blackbird Leys Summer Youth Project and the Dovecote Summer Playscheme. All the groups they are working with will be involved in the final grand musical event due to happen at the Leisure Centre on Saturday 24 October. To find out more call 790610 or 747716

Electricity Prices

With all these new electicity suppliers about it's hard to work out who's giving us a good deal. Well, the Office of Electricity Regulation (OFFER) have brought out handy pages of comparisons if you want to get down to the nitty gritty of it all. To cut a long story short it appears that British Gas Trading and Independent Energy UK offer the most savings, compared to Southern Electric's prices. It does vary if you're on direct debit or meter readings though. And if you really want to study more contact OFFER - they're in the phone book.

Hot beds

Test out your electric blanket: a free safety check in Oxford on Wed 8th and Mon13th September. Further info call: 815055.

News

Sailing down Windrush?

Abseiling that is. People will be abseiling down the130 feet of Windrush Tower on Sunday 18th July from 10am. A fund raising charity event for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. If you want to take part or help to sponsor someone - it's not too late. Call 875757 to find out more.

Advertisement

Blackbird Leys Art Workshop
6 to 9 pm
Wednesdays
EVERBODY WELCOME
from 10 years upwards
Sacred Heart Church
Balfour Road,
Blackbird Leys,
Oxford.
For further details call Oxford 748612
Supported by:
LEISURE
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

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Snips

Advertisement

the Farmstead Management Group wants to hear your ideas about how to mark the millennium

the best idea for an event or happening on New Year's Eve will receive a £10 cash prize

post your ideas through the Ealing Family letterbox at the Farmhouse by the end of July

Youth Worker Job at the Barn

The Barn Youth Project has just received a grant from the Blackbird Leys Social Fund, so we will shortly be employing a youth worker to work alongside the current staff.

This will be a paid post, working two and a half hours every Wednesday evening the Youth Club is running. If you have experience of working with young people, or feel that working with young people in a youth club setting is for you, then we want to hear from you. Volunteers are needed to help us on projects at the Youth Club.

For more information or an application form for the post please give your name and address to Nicqui Rowlands of the Farmstead Management Group, 7 Centaury Place, Blackbird Leys OX4 5TX, or phone her on **714155**.

Learn to Swim

Summer swimming at Blackbird Leys Pool. A Week long crash course of swimming lessons Monday - Friday 9-9.30 and 9.30 - 10 beginning Monday July 26th. Call Blackbird Leys pool on **779843** for prices and further information.

Oxford African Caribbean Women's Group

We began in November 97 and meet in both Blackbird Leys and Barton.

Its aims are to meet, socialise and network with black women and to have a voice about issues that concern us.

Future meetings planned include an African cooking demonstration, hair and beauty trips and black women's health awareness.

We also organise activities for the International Women's event in March and for Black History month in October.

All black women are welcome to join us. Call **Cynthia Fine** on **741317** to find out more.

BLACKBIRD LEYS REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

PROJECT PROGRESS: Pegasus Court

As many of you will have seen the development of new homes on the Pegasus Court site is progressing well. These new properties are being built to 'Life Time Homes Standard'.

This concept was developed by a group of housing experts, and means that properties are built to suit people at all stages of their life. Some features, such as positioning plug sockets and lights switches at heights to minimise bending and stretching to reach them, cost nothing but a little thought at the planning stage. Other criteria are aimed at cutting the cost of future adaptations, should they be needed. Additional energy saving features have been used, such as E-glass which will help keep tenants' heating costs to a minimum.

TENANT MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION UPDATE

The first of the 69 houses and flats have been completed and 16 tenants have moved in. The homes are owned and currently managed by Ealing Family Housing Association.

As part of the initiative, Ealing Family has been given a grant to train the new tenants in Tenant Management, where a committee of tenants is given a budget to carry out some of the housing management services themselves. This way, housing management services can respond to the tenants' wishes.

The City Council nominated tenants to all the new homes in March. The future tenants were asked to commit themselves to the development of a Tenant Management Organisation. A series of 6 training sessions started in April and will carry on through the summer, to make sure all tenants understand the project and have a chance to take part.

The first tenants have already formed a steering group and given Ealing Family useful feedback on the training sessions and housing services. Towards the end of this year the steering group will start to consider the next step, and will decide how soon they want to start taking on management of services. All tenants will have the chance to vote whether to go ahead and transfer management of some housing services to the Tenant Management Organisation, and to vote for a Committee. Ealing Family are planning an Opening Ceremony for the new development in July.

If you would like to know more about these properties or the letting of them please contact **Becky Willis at Ealing Family on712244.**

Advertisement

(OVER 55s)

Line Dancing

2pm to 4pm

EVERY THURSDAY

CLOCKHOUSE

Long Ground, Blackbird Leys.

£1 admission

For more information call 712244 ext 211

Sponsored by Ealing Family Housing and Oxford City Council

Elder

FROM THERE TO HERE a social history of Blackbird Leys

Wherever you come from we'd like to hear from you. Leys News is co-ordinating a social history project based on the lives of over 55's in Blackbird Leys. The idea is to gather together stories and photographs from residents and to put this together as an exhibition and possibly in book form in 2001 at the Clockhouse and maybe beyond. If you've got a story to tell us about or if you're interested in working on the project steering group please get in touch with Al Cane at Leys News c/o the Dovecote or call **0410 588349.**

This project is funded by the Fry's Hill Social Fund.

Homes to let at Potters Court

POTTERS COURT, ROBIN PLACE, FRYS HILL, OXFORD

Potters Court is a housing scheme for people over 55 years. The new development consists of 36 one bedroom flats, suitable for up to 2 people. The flats are located on the ground, first and second floors, with a lift to the first and second floors.

Features include:

- Your own entrance off a carpeted corridor
- Fitted kitchen with built in oven, hob and fridge-freezer
- Gas central heating
- Carpet in the living room, hall and bedroom
- Vinyl flooring in the kitchen & bathroom
- All flats are connected to the community alarm system
- Video door entry system to each flat

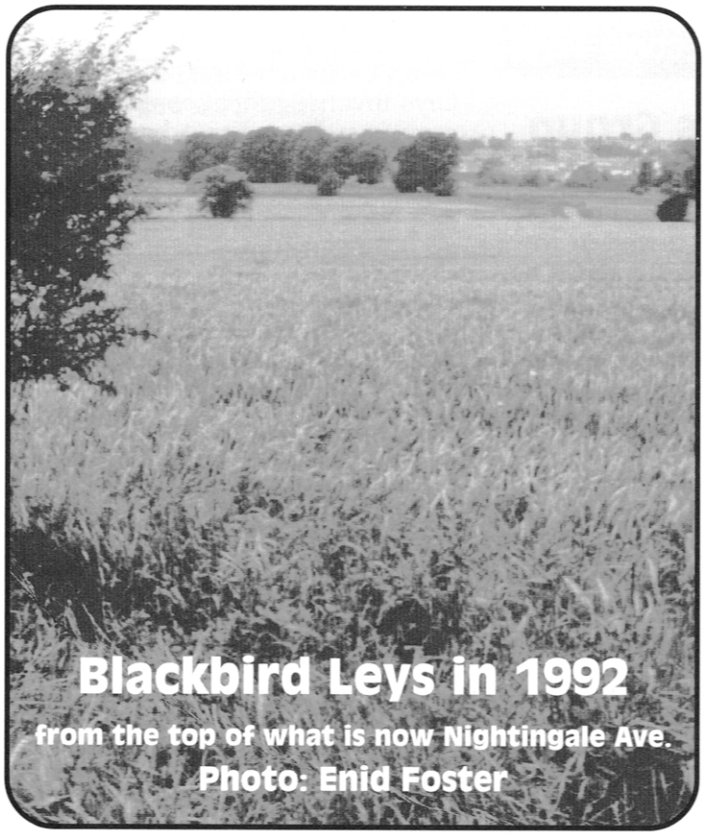
- A sheltered scheme officer manages Potters Court and maintains daily contact with residents from Monday to Friday. This helps older people to live independently.

Additional facilities:

Laundry room, comfortable communal lounge, communal activities, assisted bathroom, guest suite for residents' visitors, communal gardens.

IF YOU ARE 55 OR OLDER AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT POTTERS COURT PLEASE CONTACT THE FARMHOUSE ON 712244 OR WRITE TO US AT THE FARMHOUSE, NIGHTINGALE AVENUE, BLACKBIRD LEYS, OXFORD 0X4 5BU.

Pages



Blackbird Leys in 1992

from the top of what is now Nightingale Ave.

Photo: Enid Foster

Advertisement

Leys Community

Lunch Club

(OVER 55s)

EVERY THURSDAY

12 to 2pm

CLOCKHOUSE

Long Ground, Blackbird Leys.

Two course 'Healthy Eating' Menu

Plus tea and coffee

£4 per person

INCLUDES AFTERNOON ENTERTAINMENT

Prebookings necessary

Call Pedlars:712408

Sponsored by Ealing Family Housing Association and Oxford City Council

L.E.T.S. do it in Blackbird Leys!

(Local Exchange Trading Scheme)

*** Repairs * Bricklaying * Baking ***
*** Tree surgery * Comedian ***
*** Cartoonist * Washing up ***
Just some of the services traded in LETS schemes elsewhere

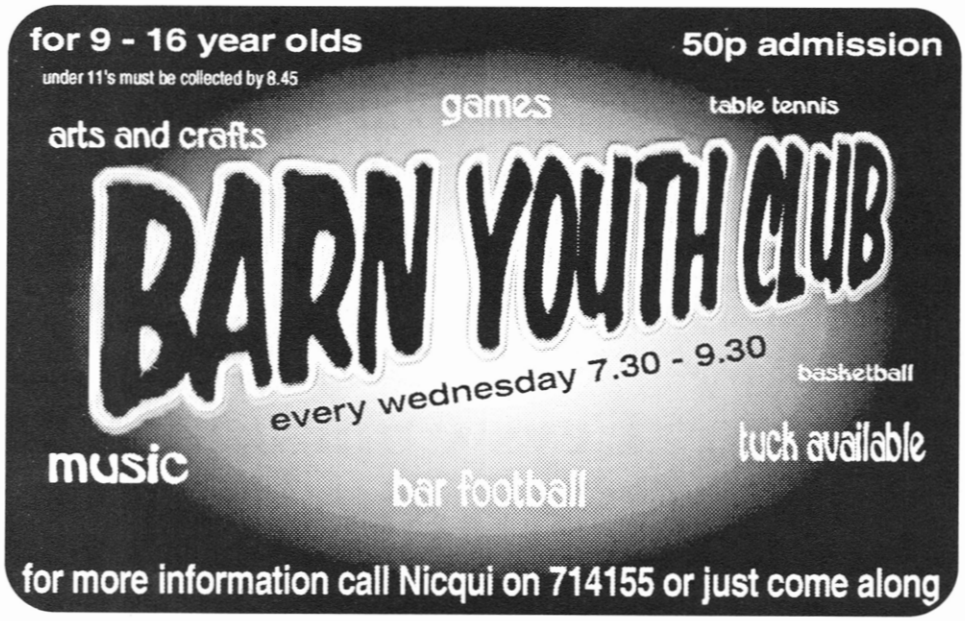
LETS is a simple bartering network set up to provide local community needs.

Anyone can join. Members exchange skills without the need of money. Members offer their skills, labour or services and negotiate terms with other members.

There is a nominal charge for administration. Members receive regular newsletters, voucher books and a directory listing all members and what they have to offer. Rules? There aren't many and they are sent to you on joining. Reviewed at AGM. LETS currently operate elsewhere in Oxford, Wheatley and Chinnor.

Want to be involved locally? Contact Wendy Hillary at Box 119, Chinnor, OX9 4YA or call 01844 354459.

Advertisement



BLACKBIRD LEYS Community Arts Group

We are a small group of local people interested in getting more going in the way of artistic and cultural activities in the Blackbird Leys area. We would be very glad to hear from anyone interested in this. We've recently been awarded a small amount of money from Oxford City Council to support local residents with skills and gifts in any art form (visual art, music, performance, video ...) who'd like to work with others in the neighbourhood, especially the Fry's Hill area.

With some of this money we hope to start a children's art class this autumn. We hope it will be run by Debbie Scrivener who is currently teaching art at the Adventure Playground.

In response to our article in the last issue of Leys News, a project to paint a mural on a wall in the swimming pool has emerged. The design is by Sharon Carr, who has recently finished art college at Banbury and moved into Fry's Hill. We are looking for volunteers to help paint the mural this autumn.

The Garsington opera company would like to do community music work in Blackbird Leys, hopefully building on the interest created through the project with the St. John's Smith Square Orchestra.

Lottery money for a millennium art project can also be applied for, up to £5000. Any ideas? Please phone Celia on 778728.

PILGRIMAGE AGAINST POVERTY

Blackbird Leys Sunday 10th October

People are often unfairly judged according level of income. The 'Pilgrimage Against Poverty' challenges the prejudices and stereotypes projected onto people living on low income. The aim is to highlight the positive aspects of life in communities that are not financially strong, to celebrate the work and experience of people who are committed to helping others in need, and to protest about the persistence and extent of poverty in the United Kingdom.

The national 'Pilgrimage' starts at the island of Iona in Scotland and is scheduled to arrive in London on 17th October.A document called AGENDA FOR CHANGE will be handed in at 10 Downing Street. This has been produced by Church Action on Poverty, working with local groups across the UK, offering proposals for combating poverty in our own country.

The walkers will arrive in Oxford on 9th October. On the afternoon of Sunday 10th October there will be an event here in Blackbird Leys involving local community groups such as the Advice Centre and Credit Union as well as larger organisations. MPs Andrew Smith and Evan Harris will contribute to an 'Any Questions' type session. The Lord Mayor (local resident!) will attend. There will be music and entertainments, and stalls of different kinds. One suggestion is for a speaker's corner' where anyone can "get on their soapbox" and speak. The Bishop of Oxford and other church leaders will attend an ecumenical service at Holy Family church at 6 p.m.

If anyone is interested to know more about the Pilgimage, or to have a copy of the 'Agenda for Change', or to help organise this event - please contact the Revd. James Ramsay, 5 Cuddesdon Way tel. 778728).

Advertisement

OCDA

creative solutions to local needs

- Would you like to get involved in your local community?
- Would you like to gain free business management skills or qualifications?
- Do you have a few hours a month to spare?

There are now four community businesses in Blackbird Leys who need additional local community Directors to help run the companies.
So, if you can answer YES to any of the questions above please get in touch.

To find out more about the community businesses or what is involved please contact

Joanne Willett,
Community Enterprise Development Officer,
Tel. (01865) 396043

Funded by The Single Regeneration Budget

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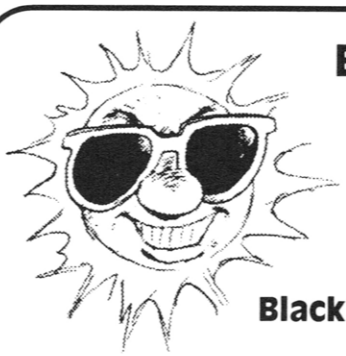


Blackbird Leys Pre-school

The BLAP Building, Moorbank, Blackbird Leys, Oxford. Tel: 747166

If you have a 3 year old and would like to introduce him or her to other children, we would love to give them a chance to experience new activities both inside and outside and learn through play.

Open Monday - Friday

9.15 ~ 11.45 or 12.30 ~ 2.45

£2 per session

Our qualified staff would like to invite you to come along and visit any time before enrolling. You will then be able to see exactly what we do within our group.

Advertisement

DOVECOTE SUMMER PLAYSCHEME

Monday 2nd to Friday 27th August

Lots and lots of FUN
swimming
ice skating
sports
arts and crafts
snooker
computer games
collage making
dancing
drama

3-6 year olds
10 - 2 & £3 daily

6-12 year olds
10 - 4 & £3 daily

day trips to Gullivers Land, Thorpe Park and Great American Adventure

Registration day
Friday 9th July
from 9.15am
at the Dovecote

Booking information
2 week blocks, either first or second two weeks
50% deposit required with registration form

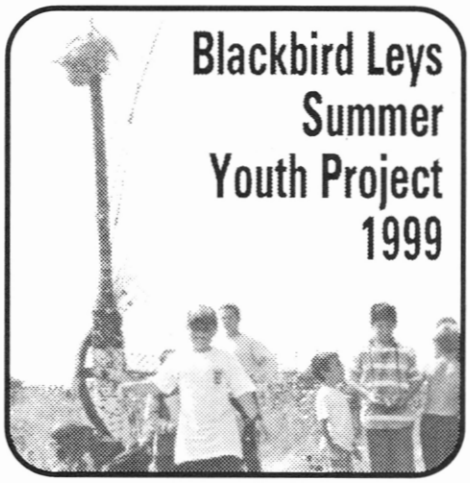
FREE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS ACROSS THE ESTATE

Mon 2nd - Fri 20th August

A whole range of free activities and projects are being planned for the first three weeks of August mostly for young people aged between 9 and 13, but some will be for older ages.

These are some of the exciting activities we are planning:

- Week long Music Project at the Youth Centre
- Week long Dance Project at the Youth Centre
- Project in partnership with Orchestra of St John's in The Barn
- Arts project run by a local artist in partnership with the Ashmolean Museum
- Photography Project with the Adventure Playground and across the estate
- Cinema screenings at the Barn and other venues
- Spotlight Theatre at the Neighbourhood Centre
- Sculpture Project
- Video Project
- Fashion Project
- Sports activities



Anyone who took part last year will know we had a brilliant time!

So keep your eyes out for the final confirmed programme that will go up across the estate and around the schools just before the end of term.

If you would like more details or are interested in helping with the Summer Project in any way, some paid work may be available, then please contact Sue Funge or **Sebastian Johnson at the Youth Centre on 396490.**

Advertisement

Football

Fun Training & Kickabout

Every Friday

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Ages 9 - 14

Boys and Girls

50p subs

Meeting at the Barn, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys.

Training event on the green by the Leisure Centre.

In order to Sign up contact Christian on Wednesday nights at the Barn Youth Project or Tel: 439660.

Youth

Advertisement

Registration Monday 26 July

BLACKBIRD LEYS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

BLAP - 1 Cuddesdon Way Oxford OX4 5JH 01865 747704

for ages 7 and up

games
trips
outings

SUMMER PLAYSCHEME

Monday 26 July - Friday 27 August

9.30 - 12 and 1 - 4.30 daily **40p per session**

Supported by Oxford City Council Leisure Services.

BLAP runs an open access facility children are free to come and go

Volunteers needed to help us run the playscheme BLAP is registered with Oxfordshire Social Services

Community Development Initiative

Youth Project Update

New Front for Youth Centre

We are going to be starting the first phase of building works at the Youth Centre in the coming months. We will be revamping the front area and facade of the building. Money from the City Council, Sobell Foundation and Social Fund has allowed this to happen.

We are in discussions with young people about the plans and hope to have the works carried out by October. It should result in a much friendlier, exciting and interesting look to the Youth Centre!

Music Tutors

Following the success of Music Power in February, we have now secured some money that means we have a specialist music tutor working with the Music Project every Monday night at the Youth Centre. For more details contact Trisha Elphinstone at the Youth Centre on 772886

Outward Bound in Wales

We have just secured a free week of outward bound in Wales for 8 young people to be run in October. This will be a pilot course, giving young people the chance to participate in a whole range of activities from rock climbing and sailing to trekking and camping rough.

We're in the very early stages of negotiations for a long-term sponsorship of free places - we'll keep you informed.

Young People's Summer Project

Plans are well under way for this years Summer Project for Young People - see the full article opposite. An exciting programme is being put together, all of which will be free. Full details will be distributed across the estate and through the schools in the second half of July.

If you would like to know more about the CDI's Youth Project contact Sebastian Johnson on 396490.

Pages

Advertisement

TRAX

TRAX Celebrated it's first anniversary at Blackbird Leys in May. We would like to thank the community of Blackbird Leys for all its support enabling it to be so successful. We have welcomed young people from both the new and old parts of the estate. Figures confirm that in the last 2 months 93 young people have attended the project; it was refreshing to see that it was not all young men.

We look forward to the forthcoming year and hope it is as successful as the last year. This summer we are going to run a five week programme for anyone aged between 13 - 17 years. It will be a one-day-a-week course and places are on a first come first served basis.

Want to learn basic mechanics and routine maintenance on off-road buggies?

Contact Chris or Darren at the project behind the shops in Knights road or call 243077.

Advertisement

DOVECOTE

Mondays Tuesdays
Wednesdays & Thursdays
3.15 - 4.45

AFTER

NEW TUCK SHOP

SCHOOL

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play games
do some art
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and much more

CLUB

1st Anniversary BLACKBIRD BONANZA

Blackbird Bonanza celebrated its first anniversary on Friday June 4th at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre.

The Bonanza continues to raise much needed funds for the Pathways Workshop. Jackpot prizes over £25,000 have been won in the first year - by local residents. Winners were invited to the celebration along with guests of honour Cllr Val Smith, newly installed Lord Mayor of Oxford and Rt. Hon. Andrew Smith MP who made the draw and presented prizes.

2 local groups, the Under 7's Football Team and the Baby Clinic at the Blackbird Leys Health Centre were beneficiaries of £400 bonanza prizes, chosen by the collectors themselves.

Lucky collector Nicola was drawn as the winner of the Collectors Cash Draw.

Corrine Laydon, granddaughter of one of the collectors helps Cllr. Val Smith, the new Lord Mayor and Andrew Smith MP make the draw to pick out the winner of the Collectors Cash Draw. The winner was Nicola, who shared the £1000 prize with her friend Lorraine.

Look out there's a Young Photographer about!

The Young Photography Project

at Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground

Several young people from Blackbird Leys have been involved in a photography project at BLAP since April.

This was an added attraction as part of the extended hours of the after school playscheme on a Tuesday evening.

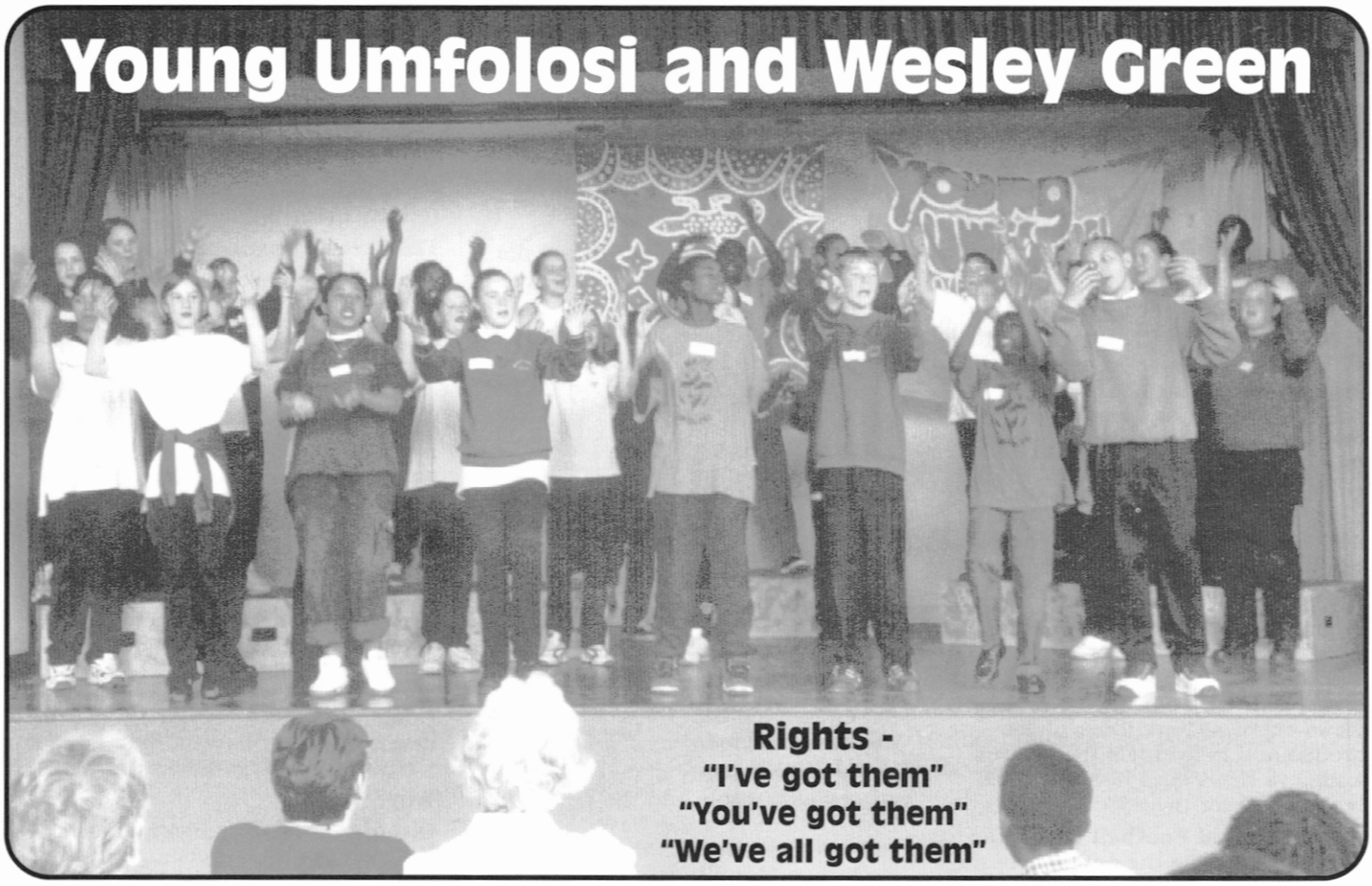
The group have been armed with cameras and have taken many different photographs around the estate from Spindleberry Park to the Minchery Farm Stadium site.

They have also been processing and printing black and white photos in BLAP's darkroom. A small exhibition is now being planned.

The project was funded by Oxford City Council and run by Al Cane.

Check out the Summer Playscheme advert or ring **BLAP on 747704**. Photographs by Deanne, Liam, Stacie, Khalid, Lianna and Chelsea.

Young Umfolosi and Wesley Green



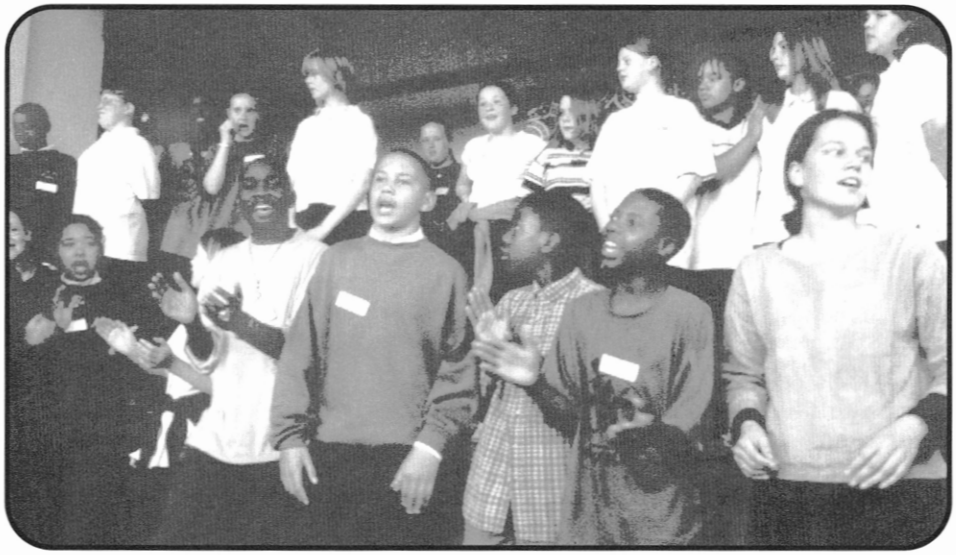
"A fabulous learning and life enhancing occasion - let's hope for more."

Young Umfolosi - a school music group from Plumtree in Zimbabwe spent 6 days in May at Wesley Green Middle School, Blackbird Leys, working with year 8 pupils on the theme of **rights and responsibilities.** This was following on from last year's residency by Black Umfolosi, the renowned Zimbabwean acapella and dance group. At the end of the project the combined groups had an open session to share what had been created over the week - there were songs and dances and a chance for everyone to join in with activities. A joyful experience for all involved incorporating video, photography, music and dance.

"It's good for children to establish links with children from another part of the world and get to know how other people live, and to see the differences and similarities." **Patsy Spencer.**

"I got more confidence about singing and dancing." **Aaron - Wesley Green student.**

The residency was organised by **ODEC** (Oxford Development Education Centre) with involvement from **Pegasus Theatre** and support from **Oxfam**, **Oxford City Council** and the **National Lottery**.



Oxford United - From The Manor to Minchery Farm.

The saga of Oxford United Football Club continues. These last few years haven't been the most successful in the history of the club and the recent relegation from Division One has certainly put a damper on things. The Minchery Farm site was conceived and started quite some time ago and then as we all know building work was abruptly halted. Since then the situation has remained in stalemate until a few months ago when a new owner appeared on the scene and various proposals were aired. Obviously the completion of the stadium and the accompanying development alongside it (the multiplex cinema, the hotel and other facilities) will have a huge impact on the residents of Blackbird Leys.

In an attempt to find out what people thought, Leys News approached certain interested parties for their views on the whole subject. (The views expressed are those of the groups and individuals themselves and Leys News does not hold itself responsible for them.)

Oxford United Football Club - the club are awaiting the outcome of the planning application for the Multiplex cinema in July and are not in a position to add more at this stage, but are obviously keen for things to progress as swiftly and smoothly as possible.

"The City Council, the fans and the club are working together to get the Minchery Farm stadium completed. The sooner we get Oxford United playing at Minchery Farm, alongside the new leisure complex, the better."

John Tanner leader of Oxford City Council

"I would love the football stadium to happen - but not at any price."

Molly Florey, Chair of Blackbird Leys Parish Council.

"It appears that there are not many strong objections in Blackbird Leys for the stadium to be completed. But we must be mindful of the fact that we need to look carefully at potential parking problems at this stage."

Tony Stockford, Blackbird Leys City Councillor.

We also approached the Liberal Democrats and Conservative parties for comments, but at the time of going to press had not received a response.

F.O.U.L.

Fighting for Oxford United's Life

Oxford United Football Club will not survive without the multiplex going ahead because:

1. a) the sale of land with planning permission for a multiplex is the only way to finance the completion of the new stadium.

b) without a new stadium, OUFC will not be able to clear its debts which are currently secured on the Manor Ground in Headington.

c) the new stadium will provide the facilities required to generate enough income to support professional football.

d) OUFC will only be allowed to play at the Manor next season on the understanding that the new stadium will be completed.

2) The vast majority of people in Oxford as a whole and the Leys/Littlemore areas have consistently said that they want the stadium and multiplex developments to go ahead.

3) Oxfordshire is one of the only counties in Britain without a multiplex cinema. There is a clear need for one. Many residents of Oxford travel to High Wycombe or Swindon to watch movies in the comfort of a mutiplex cinema.

4) FOUL believes that a multiplex for Oxfordshire should be in the heart of the county. Minchery Farm is a perfectly suited site because:

a) the stadium will provide all the necessary car parking, access roads and public transport provision that a mutiplex would require.

b) it is adjacent to Oxford's largest concentration of population and would therefore minimise car journeys.

c) no suitable site exists in the city centre. The proposed development at Oxpens has been dismissed as has a similar scheme in Abingdon.

- Richard Prangle

NB: These two longer submissions have been shortened for space reasons.

The Green Group

(representing the views of the Green Party in Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Council.)

The Green Group understands the depth of feeling of those who are supporting the application for the multiplex cinema because they see it as the only option left for the future of Oxford United.

The Green Group supports the continuation of professional football in the city, and equally importantly all the important extra community work that continues behind the scenes to encourage youngsters to play football. Football is one of many activities that bring together our community, and it is this recognition that has caused the Green Group to adopt a very different approach to this application than it otherwise would have done. Make no mistake, Greens would have been out campaigning months ago against the development if this application had not included the stadium itself.

Why?

Out-of-town developments under-cut the more traditional community shops which are closing all over the place. And it is the poor, the old and the car-less who suffer most. Such developments may be more convenient for the car-driver, and this in itself is part of the problem: it encourages the cancer of the car culture causing pollution and congestion. And then, of course, there is the effect on those living around the stadium, particularly those that have lived in the older parts of the estate for many years before there was any hint of a stadium development.

At present the Green Group is considering voting against the permission for the multiplex. The application is likely to come before Planning Committee in early July, and to the Full Council on 19 July. Of course, at any time the Government may decide to 'call-in' the application to decide upon it themselves after a public inquiry. That is entirely their own decision.

There have been many statements made around the application that have widely been accepted as true statements, including: - That if there were a public inquiry this would kill the whole project because of timing. - That there is no alternative to a multiplex cinema at Blackbird Leys for the survival of the club. - That if the deal goes through the future of the club is assured. While there is plenty of evidence to support these beliefs, they remain statements, made by people in whose interests it is to make them.

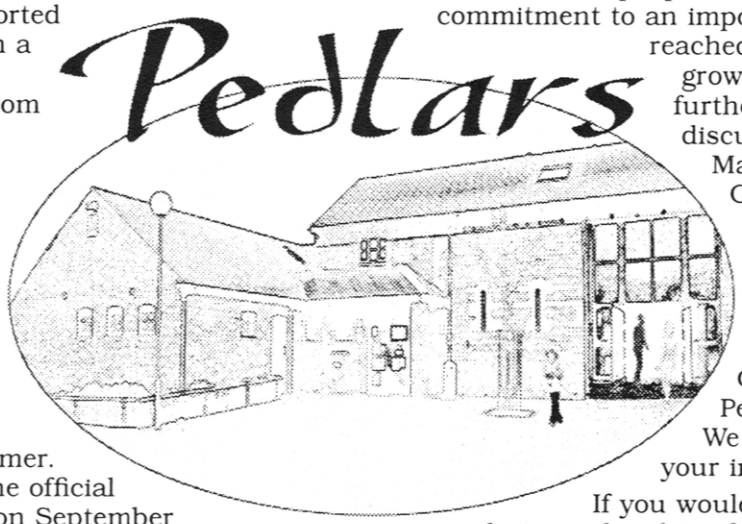
- Cllr. Paul Ingram

We hope that football in Oxford can survive the current crisis and that a compromise can be reached over the differing points of view. We expect that by the next issue of Leys News the situation will have developed further. We welcome your opinions and ideas about the situation.

Pedlars Ltd, The Barn, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford 0X4 5BU. Tel: 01865 712408

Pedlars Ltd needs local Directors and Members.

Pedlars Ltd, which is now a charity and a company limited by guarantee,moved to the Barn at Blackbird Leys on April 14th 1998. This was a brilliant move. Pedlars Ltd. provides supported employment for people with a range of disabilities and those who are recovering from mental distress. The core business lies in the preparation and delivery of sandwiches, buffet and party food locally in Blackbird Leys and around Oxford City. We are looking forward to the opening of the Pedlars Community Cafe in the Barn, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in the late summer. This is our new venture. The official opening of the cafe will be on September 9th 1999.



We need local people to join the Board of Directors. We have greatly valued the contribution made by four local Blackbird Leys people on the Board of Directors during the past year.

As they have had to move on,because of other pressing responsibilities, we are looking for enthusiastic local people to bring new zest and commitment to an important project which has reached an exciting stage in its growth and development. For further information and/or discussion please write to Margaret Coombs, Chairperson, at Pedlars address given above, or telephoneher on 01865 724343 (answerphone messages can be left at any time).

Or, would you like to join Pedlars Ltd as a member? We should be very glad of your interest and support.

If you would like to hear more about what membership of Pedlars Ltd. involves, please contact Vivien Edwards, Membership Secretary, at the Pedlars address or telephone number (01865 712408) or telephone Margaret Coombs.

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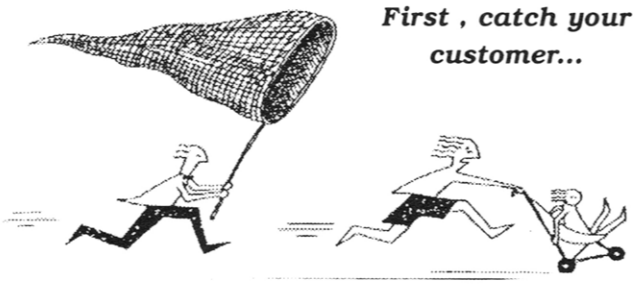

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At Oxfordshire Construction Skills Centre, Horspath Industrial Estate.

Call Judith for more details on 01865 396 261.

Assistance with child care and travel are available.

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BCE
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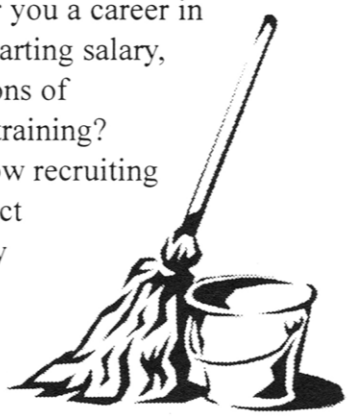
'Creating Local Employment'

A new community Business for Blackbird Leys

ARE YOU interested in working for a company who will offer you a career in cleaning, with a good starting salary, good terms and conditions of employment and NVQ training?
If so BCE Limited is now recruiting cleaning staff for contract cleaning. Starting Salary £4.25per hour. Flexible Hours. Immediate starts available.



For further information about our services or for an application form contact Paul Axtell on 01865 777751 or 0771 275 8212 or write to BCE Ltd, the Dovecote, Nightingale Avenue. Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 5BU.

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all for £12.50

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Six Pack Party Deal*
Admission, racecard, chicken or scampi & chips, 2 pints, £1 tote bet and a free return visit
all for only £10 per person
* minimum of 10 people, over 18 years, must be pre-booked and paid for in advance

Racing every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Mentors

In 1997, Jim, a 52 year old father of three with his own successful window-cleaning business came to the attention of the Probation Services in Shropshire. He'd been found guilty of assault following a separation from his partner, Margaret. What was not immediately obvious to his Probation Officer was that Jim was practically illiterate. Margaret had been responsible for all the paperwork relating to the business. Jim could not even fill in his name on a tax return. In her absence the business which Jim had slowly built up over the years was going to the wall, and all because Jim could not read or write.

Research shows that over 40% of offenders experience significant difficulties with their Maths and English. A survey in Shropshire revealed that 41% of offenders had the reading age of an average seven year-old. An Oxfordshire study uncovered a similar picture for maths. Although these do not in any way excuse crime, they do throw light on some aspects of offending behaviour.

Jenny and her partner were living on benefits with two small children to support. Jenny's Maths skills were so poor that simple budgeting was completely beyond her. She could not tell the difference in price between two similar items in a supermarket let alone calculate her average weekly shopping bill. When her Giro had been spent she shop-lifted to feed her children.

It's just this sort of basic skills need that makes offenders so hard to employ. A criminal record does not necessarily help, but most jobs require at least a basic level of literacy and numeracy. And as Liz Martin of Oxfordshire Buckinghamshire Probation Service (O.B.P.S.) says "Unemployed offenders are 3 times more likely to re-offend." That's where the Breakthrough Project comes in. Breakthrough is a volunteer scheme running throughout the Thames Valley. Offenders with poor basic skills are matched with a volunteer who will coach them in reading, writing and basic maths. Learning objectives are kept deliberately simple and relevant: telling the time, filling in forms, reading timetables. And as an offender's skills increase so do their chances of getting a job.

No special skills are needed to become a volunteer tutor. Free training is provided - a nationally-recognized City & Guilds Initial Teaching Certificate. A full-time project co-ordinator provides ongoing support and supervision. All you need to volunteer is a confidence in your own basic skills, patience, humour, and two hours per week of your time. Those two hours may have a huge impact on the life of the offender you're matched with. You'll be working on issues that directly affect their ability to function in society. Ultimately your efforts may mean the difference between unemployment and finding a job, and with it a way out of crime.

NB: Names have been changed to protect the identity of those concerned

For more info contact Joe Butler, Breakthrough Mentor Co-ordinator on 01869 255300.

Or write for more information to O.B.P.S. Headquarters, Kingsclere Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire 0X6 8QD.

See ad in Leys Training for more information on free training in Basic SkillsTeaching.

Advertisement

HOUSING ADVICE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN

Housing advice sessions are available to black, Asian and other minority ethnic women on the following housing problems :-

Homelessness, Looking for accommodation, Housing Benefits, Rent arrears, Landlord and tenant problems, Housing repairs, Overcrowding, Illegal eviction, Domestic violence, Racial harrassment, Sexual harrassment in the home, Mortgage arrears and repossessions.

Blackbird Leys Advice Centre, 96 Blackbird Leys Road, Cowley, Oxford. Friday 2.30 - 4pm, every fortnight. Call: 717041.

The Housing Advisor, Nighat Chudry, speaks Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi. If you need help in any other language, please call her so that she can get an interpreter. You need to give her 48 hours notice for this. Her address is:

Oxford Housing Rights Centre, 11 New Road, Oxford. Tel: 247853.

آکسفورڈ سٹی کونسل

سیاہ فام اور ایشیائی عورتوں کے لئے ہاؤسنگ کے بارے میں نصیحتی اجلاس

ہاؤسنگ کے بارے میں مندرجہ مشورہ دینے والے یہ اجلاس، سیاہ فام، ایشیائی اور دیگر اقلیتی عورتوں کے لئے ہیں - ان میں مندرجہ ذیل امور پر مشورہ دیا جاتا ہے -

بے گھری، ہاؤسنگ کی تلاش، ہاؤسنگ بینیفٹس، کرائے کے لنبایا جات، مالک مکان اور کرایہ دار کے مسائل، مکانات کی مرمت، مکان میں حد سے زیادہ لوگوں کا رہنا، غیر قانونی طور پر مکان سے نکالے جانا، نسلی پریشانی، جنسی پریشانی، قسطوں کے لنبایا جات اور قسطوں کے نہ ادا کرنے کی وجہ سے مکان کا قبضہ کھو دینا - وغیرہ - وغیرہ — یہ اجلاس مندرجہ ذیل اوقات میں ان جگہوں پر ہوتے ہیں -

ہاؤسنگ ایڈوائزر Nighat Chudry اردو، ہندی اور پنجابی میں بات چیت کر سکتی ہیں - اگر آپ ان زبانوں کے علاوہ کسی اور زبان میں بات کرنا چاہیں تو نائکو بتائیں تاکہ وہ ترجمان کا بندوبست کر سکیں - اس مقصد کے لئے نائکو ۴۸ گھنٹے کا نوٹس درکار ہے - نائکو کا پتہ اور فون نمبر درج ذیل ہے -

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courses run in school hours 9.30 - 2.45

students at a presentation evening at oxford town hall november 1998

OPEN DAY Thursday 15 July

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Neighbours from Heaven

This came to us as a letter, we were so moved we decided to print it in full:

When I was 7, many moons ago, we got our council house, me, my brother, my mum and my dad. I remember my Mother's utter joy to move from an ex-RAF hut in the middle of nowhere into a house with hot and cold water, a bathroom and inside toilet! And our neighbours were so very nice. My brother and I called them Aunty and Uncle.

Time passed and my mother began to have big problems with mental health. This was at a time when nice people did not want to know about things like that! I thank God that our neighbours were more than nice people. Aunty often called my brother and I in when she realised things had become very fraught and we had not eaten. We would sit on her back step in warm weather with hunks of cheese and toast.

Her practical neighbourly help did not stop there. She showed me the best way to clean up the house, sort out the grocery list and a million little things. By the time the Cowley Centre opened its first supermarket I could smell out a special offer at 5 miles!

So many people, friends and relatives, stopped calling as Mum's illness became more pronounced and her behaviour more bizarre. Aunty was the only person outside of Dad and my brother who knew why I had not been to school at certain times. Mum had overdosed, tried to gas herself or what ever. Dad would stay with my brother, I would go down in the ambulance. Aunty would bring round a fresh baked cake.

Uncle was always in the background, a solid, dependable rock who never seemed to flinch no matter what.

By the time I was 12 I was well versed in E.C.T. and the corridors of that huge hospital that is now becoming a science park.

It was Aunty who came to help me get a suit for my wedding and she who held me so close when the marriage went pear-shaped. Her and Uncle were a constant reference point to me over the years. I sincerely hope they understood something of my love and deep admiration for them before they died.

These days I still hear Aunty saying, "Come on, the dust gets behind as well as in front of the couch". And "Come on love, lets sit down and have a cuppa together, it won't put things right but it'll warm us up".

I wish I had been articulate enough as a child to have written to a paper to tell them about my neighbours from heaven. Whenever I get a bit cross at the neighbours around me as we all do from time to time I remember Aunty and Uncle's example and work at being a better neighbour.

Do you know anyone who might qualify as a Neighbour from Heaven. If so drop us a line - we will respect anonymity if requested.

Community Mediation

"Arguments! Disputes! Conflicts! In one way or another, we all know what it's like to be involved in one. Even afterwards, we can be left feeling angry, unhappy or that the problem hasn't really been sorted out.

By involving mediators, all that can be different. "How?", I hear you shout. Many disputes are based on wrong assumptions or people thinking that they know the full story when, in fact, there are often important gaps. This leads to misunderstandings and people becoming convinced that somebody is deliberately annoying or harassing them.

All too frequently, this is not the case because one person often does not know the FULL story from the other's point of view. It works the other way round too. People are often surprised when they realise how upset the other person is.

We can help in all sorts of disputes - involving family, work, neighbours, groups, schools, tenants,.. .etc. We're really flexible - we meet people when it suits them and our service is available to everyone. Of course, mediation can't always resolve every dispute but you would be AMAZED at how many seemingly impossible situations we do help people to sort out. Even in situations which are not fully sorted, our involvement usually helps things to become much better than they were.

You can call me, Rowen, or any of our team at Oxford Community Mediation on 742439."

Advertisement

OXFORD COMMUNITY MEDIATION

Drop in Dispute Surgery at Holy Family Church Centre, Cuddesdon Way

All welcome.

First Tuesday of every month

(6th Jul, 3rd Aug, 7th Sep)

12.30-2.30 pm

. It's FREE and CONFIDENTIAL.

For more info, call Rowen on 742439.

STOP PRESS: Rowen will be at Holy Family Church Centre Office every Wednesday afternoon for anybody wanting to find out more or to have an informal talk about how mediation may help.

Oxford Unemployed Workers & Claimants Union

...is based at East Oxford Community Centre in Princes Street but is active right across the city, including on Blackbird Leys.

Strength in Numbers

We're working with small groups of lone parents and long term unemployed finding out what would improve the quality of life for people on low income AND trying to make it happen. This includes things like socials, holidays, better child care, training - whatever the group identifies as important. The picture shows the Strength in Numbers group, most of whom are from Blackbird Leys and other OUWCU members on a day trip to West Midlands Safari Park on April Fool's Day this year. If you're bringing up children on your own or have been unemployed for a long time and are interested in getting involved give us a ring and ask for Marsha or Jim.

Advice:

The union provides a free confidential advice service, five days a week, for anyone who is unemployed, low waged or on benefits. This includes help with challenging decisions and appeals. So if you've got problems with the Social Security; the Job Centre, Housing Benefit or problems at work give us a call. OUWCU is run by people who are themselves unemployed, low waged or claimants and we are independent of the DSS etc. As well as advice and back up the Claimants Union also helps organise social activities and projects to improve people's quality of life.

Free Driving Lessons:

We have a grant from the Adult & Community learning Fund to pay for 75 people to learn to drive for free, including help with the written test. This scheme is starting in July / August. To take part you have to be a lone parent on Income Support or Family Credit or have been unemployed for more than eighteen months (either signing on or unemployed partner of someone who is). Ring us for an application form. Because of the demand for places, a draw will be held to choose the 75 and a reserve list. We are looking for more funds so we can do more than 75 people.

Oxford Unemployed Workers & Claimants Union,
East Oxford Community Centre,
Princes Street,
Oxford OX4 1HU.
Tel: 723 750

To all Housing Association Tenants on Greater Leys

Do you agree?

Do you agree with the way the housing associations at Greater Leys go about their business? Would you like to see this change?

Either way, now is the time for you to have your say in how this part of the Leys is run, and how the three housing associations; Ealing Family, Oxford Citizens and Cherwell, provide their services for local residents and the community.

How the associations work is set out in an Estate Management Agreement, which was part of the original deal with Oxford City Council to build the new homes and facilities at Greater Leys. The agreement has to be reviewed and updated each year, and this is now due.

So, if you would like to see any of the associations do something better, do it more, do it less or stop doing something, you can help make this happen by giving your views on the Estate Management Agreement.

You can see a copy of the existing Agreement at the Farmhouse office in Nightingale Avenue, and you can get your own copy by asking at the office, or call 01865 712244.

This year, the Agreement will be widened to make the Leys Residents Association a full party to it, and by including new parts of the housing associations' work in it (for example, what we are doing about tackling anti-social behaviour in the area, and what information about our work and performance will be published to local residents).

The Leys Residents Association will look at the Agreement at its meeting on 13 July, and other local groups will be sent a copy for their comments before then. You can give your views anytime between now and the end of July by contacting any of the housing associations or Wendy Spray, the Tenant Participation Worker, on 01865 712244.

If you agree with the way we work - please tell us. If you don't - definitely tell us!

Ian Hembrow, Oxford Citizens Housing Association

Building Maintenance Training

The Building Maintenance Training project has now come to an end. A measure of success of the project is the number of former trainees who have gone on into full time employment. While the majority of these jobs are in the building industry, a few have found the confidence to look elsewhere too. All trainees also benefited from health and safety training.

We are always looking to help others gain more knowledge of the construction/ carpentry / joinery industries. You do not have to study for a qualification, we can help you do whatever you find is a problem to finding a job. If you want to update a certain skill, such as plastering, we can help. The maintenance training course may have finished, but training opportunities continue with the Oxfordshire Co-Operative Development Agency (OCDA) at the new Construction Skills Centre at Horspath Road.

Care Training

This training is delivered in partnership with Oxfordshire Social Services. Students work towards a recognised qualification and many achieve accreditation in NVQ Level 2 in Care. For those who complete the course many go on to find jobs.

Training Update

Students also benefit from others experience, and the motivation created from meeting other carers helps.

The building of the new nursing home on the estate gave the opportunity to those trained to find employment in the area. 53 local people have found employment at the new nursing home.

Anyone interested in finding out more about building /construction training or attending training courses in Adult Care should ring Judith at OCDA on (01865)396261.

Community Enterprise

We are now in the final year of this project, and need to begin to consider how the work started can be continued and developed in the future. As a result of the work there are now 4 community businesses on Blackbird Leys, with the latest one 'Oxford Mobile Creche Limited' having sent incorporation papers to Companies House.

One of the main problems all the community businesses have is in attracting volunteers, particularly local people, to become directors. Although the work can be challenging and at times hard work I'm sure that those who have been involved have found it rewarding and interesting.

As part of the support that OCDA offer to Directors, we have written and accredited an 'Introduction to Community Business Management' course which covers subjects such as legal structures and responsibilities, employing staff, writing business plans and basic accounts.

The first students on the course have all completed, passed and achieved accreditation at Level two through Oxfordshire Open College Network. We are currently running the course again and the Students on the second course are all well on their way to gaining the credits as well.

Congratulations to them all!

As part of the on-going development of the course we have recently submitted further units at level 3 and hope to run the course again later this year offering credits at levels 1 - 3. if anyone is interested in finding out more about the course or how to get involved in the running of a community business contact Joanne at OCDA on (01865) 396043.

Compiled by:-

Julia Tomkins, SRB Administration Officer, Oxford City Council

THESE PROJECTS ARE SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS SINGLE REGENERATION BUDGET.

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DEVELOPMENT WORK

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ADVOCACY

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING

TELEPHONE HELPLINE WORK

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CAMPAIGNING

especially from the Asian, African, African-Caribbean, Chinese communities and anyone who would like to contribute to the work of the centre.

If you have a few hours a week to spare, and want to meet new people, develop new skills, have a positive impact on the community, and gain valuable work experience with a mental health charity. Full support and on-going training are provided, all expenses paid including childcare and reasonable dependency costs.

phone Liz or Ben on 01865 728981

at the Oxfordshire Mental Health Resource Centre 19 Paradise Street Oxford OX1 1LD

OMHM receives financial support from Oxfordshire County Council, and the National Lottery Board. Reg. Charity no 1017602

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BE A WINNER

Save £87 on a £200 loan from the Credit Union

Borrow £200 from Blackbird Leys Credit Union, pay it back at £4.50 a week for 52 weeks; total paid £213.

Borrow £200 from any of the credit companies that come and collect your repayments, pay it back at £5.77 per week for 52 weeks; total paid £300. Now the difference between £213 and £300 is what you could save on a £200 loan, if you join Blackbird Leys Credit Union.

Blackbird Leys Credit Union is cheaper for loans than any loan company, even those that call for payments at your home.

All you have to do is drop by at any of the collection points or phone Jim Hewitt on 773098. Save regularly for 13 weeks then you can apply for a loan for up to twice what you have saved.

Collection Times and Places

Saturdays: 10:30 to 11:30am, Advice Centre - Top Shops, 96 Blackbird Leys Road.

Mondays: 10:00 to 11:00am, Holy Family Church Centre, Cuddesdon Way.

Tuesdays: 11:00 to 11:45am, Family Centre, Cuddesdon Way.

Wednesdays: 12:00 to 1:00pm, Dovecote, Nightingale Avenue.

Advertisement

aerobics

mondays 6.30 - 7.30pm

at the BARN

Nightingale Ave

starting monday 2nd august

learn how to keep fit and lose weight with a qualified aerobics teacher

for all levels of fitness - everyone welcome

first two sessions FREE and then it's £1.50 per session

further information from Teresa on 714264

aerobics

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Blackbird Leys Pre-School Partnership

Here are four Pre-schools in your area who have vacancies for 3 - 5 year olds. Please call these numbers to make enquiries:

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CAMPING & OUTDOOR LIFE SUPERSTORE

FRAME TENTS
DOME & RIDGE TENTS
CARAVAN AWNINGS
CAMPING & CARAVAN ACCESSORIES

OUTDOOR ACTIVE
SLEEPING BAGS, RUCSACS WALKING BOOTS, OUTDOOR CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

LARGE SELECTION

FREE! TENT, CAMPING & OUTDOOR CATALOGUE

EASY TO FIND
OPPOSITE REDBRIDGE PARK & RIDE

OWN FREE CAR PARK

pay us a visit

TOUCHWOODS

426 ABINGDON ROAD OXFORD 01865 246651

Useful Numbers

General

Abandoned vehicles. These are a danger to our children. Telephone Environmental Health 252818.

Crimestoppers. In complete confidence, Freephone 0800 555111

Street lighting. Faulty lights please telephone freephone 0800 317802 and report the number on the lamp.

Dog nuisance. Telephone 252914 and tell the dog warden about the animals. Out of hours 240924.

Pollution. Have you seen pollution in our streams and rivers? Call the Environment Agency on (0800) 807060.

Junk mail. If you wish to limit the receipt of unsolicited mail, write to the mailing preference service, FREEPOST 22 London W1E (no stamp required). They will send you a form on which to request their member organisations not to send you unsolicited mail. IT IS FREE and IT WORKS.

Garden Refuse. The City Council will provide green waste sacks at 50p each, and collect up to two sacks per week. Tel. 752912.

Pavement hazards and crumbling roads. Loose slabs, broken kerb stones, blocked road drains, gravel and silt after floods? Tel. 747390.

Noise. Call 252556.

Pest control. Call the Bug Busters at Environmental Health on 252384.

Bulk Rubbish Collection. Don't fall over it! Call 725912.

Oxford Community Mediation: For help in sorting disputes - neighbours, friends, family, work, groups, etc. Tel: 742439.

Blackbird Leys Parish Council: 712620

Cuddesdon Family Centre: 773263

Adventure Playground: 747704

Leisure Centre: 771565

Peers Sport Centre: 779348

Doctors Surgery: 778244

Advice Centre: 770206

Youth Centre: 772886

Dovecote Centre: 712299

Swimming Pool: 779348

B.B Leys Library: 770403

Health Visitors: 715689

Syringes/needles: 249811

Housing

City Council Local Housing Offices Blackbird Leys 3 Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 5JH. Tel: 718811. Open all day Monday to Thursday 9am until 5pm. Friday 9am until 4.30pm. Out of hours emergency service for Oxford City Council Tenants. Blackbird Leys Tenants Forum, 2nd monday of each month at the Housing Office as above.

Cherwell Housing Trust : 722711 or 717210 or fax 790702. Wednesdays 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Ealing Family Housing Association (Elaine Partridge/Rhiannon Jones): 712244 or fax 712121.

Oxford Citizens Housing Association (Phil Hardy). Blackbird Leys Office:714509 or fax 717404. Head Office: 773000.

Northcote Housing Association: Tel: Oxford 712244.

Leys Residents Association. Make sure your voice is heard. To positively contribute to improvements to the new part of Blackbird Leys Contact the association at: The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys. Tel: 770951.

Police

Community Beat Officers: PC 4350 Steve Fredericks, PC 4491 Martin Biddell, PC Paul Saunders, PC 2424 Bill Pennington and WPC Debbie Woodward: Oxford 335136/8. This is an answerphone that may not get checked for 48 hours. Use this number for passing info to community beat officers or requests for them to contact you on a non-urgent basis.

Customer Services: This is answered in person 90% of the time. Use this number for reporting incidents that do not need police attendance, eg: theft of cycles, minor damage etc., with no witnesses. Call Oxford 266333.

Oxford Control Room: This number will be answered by the switchboard - please ask for Oxford Control Room. To report crime or an incident that DOES require police attendance. Call Oxford 266000.

Cowley Police Station: 749909.

Family Protection Unit: on 335200.

Crime Stoppers: Freephone 0800 555111. For confidential information for Community Police Officers.

Police Emergency: Just call 999. For threats to life or crime that is taking place as you see it, eg: an assault or burglary that is taking place.

Councillors Surgeries

11 - 12 EVERY SATURDAY IN THE BLACKBIRD LEYS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Jul 10th	Tony Stockford
Jul 17th	Val Smith
Jul 24th	David Elwell
Jul 31st	Val Smith
Aug 7th	Tony Stockford
Aug 14th	David Elwell
Aug 21st	Tony Stockford
Aug 28th	David Elwell
Sep 4th	Val Smith
Sep 11th	Tony Stockford
Sep 18th	Val Smith
Sep 25th	David Elwell
Oct 2nd	Tony Stockford
Oct 9th	Val Smith
Oct 16th	David Elwell
Oct 23rd	Tony Stockford
Oct 30th	Val Smith

Where possible we do try and stick to the Councillors listed - but obviously this can change due to holidays, sickness, mayoral duties etc.

David Elwell, 57 Western Road, Oxford - tel: 724685.

Val Smith, 4 Flaxfield Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford - tel: 772893.

Tony Stockford, 8 Pegasus Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford - tel: 779795.

Andrew Smith MP Surgeries

16th July: 4 - 5.30pm Cowley Com. Centre, 6 - 7pm Rose Hill Com. Centre

NO SURGERIES IN AUGUST

3rd September: 4 - 5.30pm Princes Street Advice Centre, 6 - 7pm Blackbird Leys Com. Centre

17th September: 4 - 5.30pm Cowley Community Centre, 6 - 7pm Rose Hill Community Centre

1st October: 4 - 5.30pm Princes Street Advice Centre, 6 - 7pm Blackbird leys Com. Centre

15th October: 4 - 5.30pm Barton Com. Centre, 6 - 7pm Rose Hill Com. Centre.

Weekly Events

MONDAY

Drop in Creche 10 - 1 pm. £1.50 per child Dovecote Centre, term time only.

After School Club 3.15 - 4.45 pm for 5 to 12 yr olds, at the Dovecote Centre - 50p.

Aerobics 6.30-7.30pm The Barn £1.50

Boxercise 6 - 7 pm. Leisure Centre.

TUESDAY

Cedars Club 9 am - 4 pm at the Clockhouse.

Career Guidance 9 am. - 1 pm. At the Oxford College of F. Education Library, Blackbird Leys.

Step exercise 10 am - 11 am Leisure Centre.

After School Club 3.15 - 4.45 pm for 5 to 12 yr olds - Dovecote Centre 50p.

Karate 6 - 7pm, the Barn.

Kick Box Training 8 - 9pm

Boxercise 7.30 - 8.30 pm Leisure Centre.

WEDNESDAY

After School Club 3.15 - 4.45 pm for 5 to 12 yr olds Dovecote Centre 50p.

Cedars Club 9 am - 4 pm at the Clockhouse.

New Ol'Leys 12 - 2pm Dovecote Centre. All ages.

Lunch Club & Toy Library.

Gymnastics 4 - 6pm Leisure Centre.

African Caribbean young people's sports sessions, 5 - 6pm, the Leisure Centre. Call Koffi 772886 for details.

Oxford Community Education Group, 5.30 - 7.30 pm study session for 9+ olds of Afro-Caribbean origin, term time only at the Youth Centre.

Youth Club 7.30 - 9.30 at the Barn.

THURSDAY

Career Guidance 9 am - 1 pm - Oxford College of Further Education Library, Blackbird Leys

Body Blitz Fitness 10 - 11 am Leisure Centre.

Carer & Toddler Group 10 - 11.30 am Dovecote Centre. All welcome 50p per session. Also toy library.

After School Club 3.15 - 4.45 pm, at the Dovecote Centre. 5 - 12 yr olds 50p.

Sin & Slim 7pm fitness classes, Blackbird Leys or at Cowley Reformed Church, Temple Road at 6.30 pm.

Weight Watchers at the Barn 7-8pm £4.25

FRIDAY

Legs, Bums & Tums 10 - 11 am & 11.15 am - 12.15pm Leisure Centre.

Lemon Juice young parents group,The Dovecote 11.30 - 2.30.

Oxford Warriors Self Defence 6 - 8pm at the Barn.

Bingo for Over 50s 7.30 - 9.30 pm, Clockhouse.

SATURDAY

Karate Club 10 - 11 am The Barn for ages 5 to 12 yr old £2 per session.

Councillors Surgeries 11 - 12noon Blackbird Leys Community Centre.

Dance, 4.30 - 5.30pm and Bingo 6.30 - 9.45pm at the Leisure Centre.

Forthcoming events for your diary

Windale School BBQ: Fri 16th July, from 5 - 7pm. 75p for a burger & drink.

Computer Fair: Sat 17th July at the Leisure Centre.

London Gospel Community Choir: Wed 21st July at the Oxford Playhouse.

Childrens Holiday Activities: 26th July to 7th September (Pre-bookings preferred) £3.50 per day at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre. Ring for info.

Positive Vibrations: South Park, Oxford. Sun 1st Aug. A fun day out live music & entertainment with an Afro-Caribbean flavour. FREE.

Oxfordshire Playday: Wed 4th August 10am - 3pm. Leisure Centre. SPLASH is the theme of this annual event for young people up to 16 all kinds of fun activities. FREE.

Dog Show: Saturday 28 August at the Leisure Centre.

Leys Community Fair: Saturday 2nd October from 11am to 3pm. at the Farmstead Buildings and the Green.

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Leys Community Fair
Sat 2nd Oct
11am to 3pm
At the Farmstead Buildings and the Green.
Contact Trish Ampleford on: 714509. Including Jobs Fair and Training Day, Children's events & Entertainments.